Updated Report: Thursday, 28th of December 2023

The eighty-third Day of the Israeli aggression against Palestine

Daily Report on the Effects of the Israeli Aggression in Palestine

From October 7 until December 28th, 2023

Some of the information contained in this report is as of Tuesday evening, 27th of December 2023.

The Emergency Operations Center at the Ministry of Health in Ramallah supervises the data collection process through its offices in Gaza. Numbers are updated every 24 hours. These numbers reflect confirmed statistics only but do not necessarily reflect all victims due to the fact that many victims are still missing under the rubble.

The escalating atrocities in Palestine as a result of Israeli aggression surpass mere numerical reporting, constituting severe violations of all human rights. The health system is deliberately targeted, amounting to brutal war on the Palestinian people. This insufferable situation demands immediate intervention. We call upon all international humanitarian and health organizations to urgently enter Gaza, ensuring protection for health workers, facilities, and civilians. A tangible advocacy for an immediate ceasefire and an end to the ongoing siege on Gaza is imperative to halt this humanitarian crisis.[1][2]

Current Situation:

- On December 27, there is no safe place in Gaza strip extensive Israeli occupation bombardment persisted throughout the Gaza Strip from air, land, and sea. The impact was most grave in Gaza City and Jabalya in the north, while hostilities persisted in the four refugee camps—Al Bureij, An Nuseirat, Deir Al Balah, and Al Maghazi—in the Middle Area. Concurrently, Israeli forces targeted multiple locations in the southern cities of Khan Yunis and Rafah.
- On December 27, Israeli occupation forces targeted the UNRWA Preparatory School for Girls in Al Maghazi camp, Middle Gaza. The attack resulted in the death of at least five Palestinians and left several others injured. The school, which was providing shelter for forcibly displaced persons (FDPs), was evacuated in the aftermath of the strike.
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[1] https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2023/11/gaza-un-experts-call-international-community-prevent-genocide-against

[2] https://www.un.org/unispal/document/gaza-un-experts-decry-bombing-of-hospitals-and-schools-as-crimes-against-humanity-call-for-prevention-of-genocide/

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- According to UNICEF statistics, at least 1,000 children have had their limbs amputated without anesthesia up to this date.
- Between 23 and 26 December, 858 Palestinians were reportedly killed, and another 1,598 people were injured.
- between 7 October and 00:00 on 26 December, at least 20,915 Palestinians were killed in Gaza. About 70 per cent of those killed are said to be women and children. As of 26 December, 54,918 Palestinians have been injured. Thousands of people are missing, buried under the rubble, with many still waiting for rescue or recovery.
- On 25 December, Israeli media published a video reportedly showing Israeli occupation forces detaining hundreds of Palestinians inside Al Yarmouk football stadium in Gaza city. The video shows the detainees, including children, older people, and persons with disabilities, being forced to strip to their underwear in degrading conditions. On 26 December, the media published video testimonies from Palestinian detainees who had been taken to Israel and then reportedly released back into Gaza through the Kerem Shalom crossing. The detainees, including older persons, showed how they had been tortured and ill-treated in captivity, with video footage showing bruises and burns on their bodies. They also being deprived of food, water, and access to toilets.
- UNRWA says it "cannot deliver meaningful aid" under intense Israeli bombardments of Gaza after the UN Security Council called for increased access.
- Telecommunication blackouts continue to jeopardize life-saving assistance, hampering communication for humanitarian agencies and first responders.

attacks on Health care:

- On 25 December, the Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS) with the International Red Crescent Society (ICRC) managed to evacuate 21 patients from Al Ahli Baptist Hospital and 13 patients from Shifa to Khan Younis, in the south. PRCS also evacuated teams from the ambulance center in Jabalia, in the north, after Israeli occupation forces reportedly forced them to leave the center and destroyed the ambulances on 20 December, according to PRCS.
- On 25 December, in two separate incidents, Al Kheir hospital in Jabalya and the vicinity of the Indonesian hospital in Beit Lahia (both north of Gaza city) were hit and destroyed. Both were empty and non-operational at the time they were hit; in the latter, three Palestinians were killed, and others were injured.
- On 25 December, UNRWA delivered 80,000 vials of the measles, mumps, and rubella vaccine to Gaza.
- According to WHO, as of 22 December, nine out of Gaza's 36 hospitals are partially functional, all located in the south. These hospitals are operating at three times their capacity, while facing critical shortages of basic supplies and fuel. Occupancy rates in these hospitals are now reaching 206 per cent in inpatient departments and 250 per cent in intensive care units.
- On 23 December, WHO stated that northern Gaza had been left without a functional hospital due to the lack of fuel, staff, and medical supplies. Al Ahli Hospital is still treating patients but not admitting new ones, along with Shifa, Al Awda and Al Sahaba hospitals. These hospitals are not accessible by new patients, and they continue to care for existing patients while also sheltering thousands of FDPs.

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Population and Displacement:

- On 26 December, several FDPs were injured when the upper floors of the PRCS headquarters, in Khan Yunis, where thousands of FDPs are sheltering, were hit and damaged.
- On 26 December, the Israeli occupation forces reiterated its call upon residents to leave an area, originally designated for evacuation on 22 December, covering about 15 per cent, or roughly 9 square kilometers, of Deir Al Balah governorate in central Gaza. Before the onset of hostilities, it was home to nearly 90,000 people, and it now includes six shelters that have accommodated about 61,000 internally displaced people, mostly from the north. In recent days, humanitarian partners have reported an influx of internally displaced people from Deir Al Balah governorate to the already overcrowded south.
- The affected areas include Al Bureij and An Nuseirat Refugee Camps and north of An Nuseirat (Az Zaharaa, and Al Moughraga). Instructions accompanying the map call on residents to move immediately to shelters in Deir al Balah, which is already overcrowded, hosting several hundred thousand FDPs.
- Obtaining an accurate figure of the total number of FDPs remains challenging. According to UNRWA, 1.9 million people in Gaza, or nearly 85 per cent of the population, are estimated to be internally displaced, including people who have been displaced multiple times, as families are forced to move repeatedly in search of safety.
- Lack of food, basic survival items, and poor hygiene, further exacerbate the already dire living conditions of FDPs, amplify protection and mental health issues, and increase the spread of disease.
- According to Ministry of Education, between 7 October and 26 December, more than 4,037 students and 209 educational staff were killed, and more than 7,259 students and 619 teachers were injured in Gaza.
- according to UNRWA, more than 1.9 million people in Gaza, or nearly 90 % of the population, were estimated to be forcibly displaced. Nearly 1.2 million of these FDPs were registered in 154 UNRWA facilities across Gaza, of whom about one million are registered in 94 UNRWA shelters in the south.
- Obtaining an accurate count is challenging, given difficulties including in tracking FDPs staying with host families Since 7 October, at least 288 FDPs sheltering in UNRWA shelters have been martyred, and 998 injured.
- Tens of thousands of FDPs in Rafah continue to face extremely overcrowded conditions, with a fourfold increase in population density.

Public Health catastrophe:

- Gaza Strip hospitals that are partially functioning encounter obstacles on top of exceeding their capacity with 205% and sheltering FDPs, including a deficiency in medical personnel such as specialized surgeons, neurosurgeons, and intensive care staff. Furthermore, there is a shortage of essential medical supplies like anesthesia, antibiotics, pain relief medications, and external fixators. Moreover, there is a pressing requirement for fuel, food, and potable water, posing a significant public health threat.
- The entire population in the Gaza Strip is at an imminent risk of famine, reported by the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) on December 21, due to the conflict's impact and restricted humanitarian access, resulting in catastrophic levels of acute food insecurity.
- On December 20, UNICEF reported that children in Gaza can access only 10% of their normal water use, increasing the risk of dehydration, diarrhea, disease, and malnutrition. Waterborne diseases like cholera and chronic diarrhea pose elevated threats due to the lack of safe water, worsened by seasonal rains and flooding.

- Soaring rates of infectious disease outbreaks are noted in Gaza, with diarrhea cases among children under 5 increasing 25 times since the conflict began, according to the Director General of WHO. This poses a severe threat, particularly in the absence of functioning health services.
- Gaza is facing a critical stock-out of vaccinations, leading to catastrophic health repercussions. More than 360,000 cases of infectious diseases, including acute respiratory infections, meningitis, jaundice, impetigo, and chickenpox, have been recorded in UNRWA shelters.
- The food security situation worsens in the south, with 44% of households reporting very severe hunger.
- The lack of formula for babies and poor sanitary conditions at UNRWA shelters contribute to the public health crisis.
- Decomposing remains of Gaza civilians pose a significant risk, heightening the threat of a public health crisis.
- Sewage flowing in the streets stopped pumping stations, and non-functional water wells contribute to unsanitary conditions, raising the risk of infectious diseases.
- Immediate and critical need for blankets, warm clothing, and adequate shelters with the onset of winter, as forcibly displaced persons (FDPs) face floods with ill-prepared makeshift shelters.
- Vulnerable groups, including people with disabilities, pregnant and breastfeeding women, individuals recovering from injuries or surgeries, and those with weakened immune systems, face challenging shelter conditions.

The West Bank, including Jerusalem:

- Since 7 October, 313 Palestinians, including 72 children, have been killed by the Israeli Occupation forces in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. This toll represents nearly 60 per cent of all Palestinians killed in the West Bank this year. With a total of 522 Palestinians killed in the West Bank, 2023 is one of the deadliest year for Palestinians in the West Bank.
- Since 7 October, Israeli occupation forces have injured 3,803 Palestinian civilians, including at least 576 children; 51 per cent in the context of search-and-arrest and other operations and 41 per cent of them in the context of demonstrations. Another 88 civilians have been injured by settlers and 18 other Palestinians injured either by Israeli occupation forces or settlers. Some 33 per cent of those injuries have been caused by live ammunition, compared with 9 per cent in the first nine months of 2023.
- Since 7 October, at least 198 Palestinian households comprising 1,208 people, including 586 children, have been displaced amid settler violence and access restrictions. The displaced households are from at least 15 herding/Bedouin communities. More than half of the displacements occurred on 12, 15, and 28 October, affecting seven communities.

Urgent Needs:

- Immediate cessation of Israeli brutal war against Palestinian civilians.
- Urgent implementation of international humanitarian laws protecting health institutions and civilians.
- Immediate and unconditional entry of humanitarian and health supplies into Gaza.
- Halt forcible displacement of civilians.
- Urgent support for search and rescue operations.

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